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May 10, 2000

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via Hand Delivery

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Office of The Secretary
Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, TWA325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Ex Parte Presentation of Bachow/Coastel,
L.L.C., WT Docket No. 97-112, CC Docket No. 90-6**

Dear Ms. Salas:

Bachow/Coastel, L.L.C. ("Bachow/Coastel"), pursuant to section 1.1206(b)(2) of the Commission's rules,¹ and by its attorneys, herewith files with the Commission an original and one copy of its summary of its *ex parte* presentation at the Commission on Tuesday, May 9, 2000, and the paper handout from that meeting. On that date, Bachow/Coastel Vice President of Operations, Robert Ivanoff, along with Bachow/Coastel's counsel, Steven J. Hamrick, Esq. of Fleischman and Walsh, L.L.P., met with Peter A. Tenhula, Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Commissioner Michael K. Powell. Bachow/Coastel is filing two additional copies of this summary with the Commission due to the second docket number attached to this proceeding.

In this meeting, Bachow/Coastel stated that the primary reason for the Commission's proposed rules in its Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("Second FNPRM"), which is to provide reliable cellular service in the coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico,² is no longer at

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b).

² See Cellular Service and Other Commercial Mobile Radio Services in the Gulf of Mexico, 65 Fed. Reg. 24168-24169 (April 25, 2000).

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issue, because licensees currently provide reliable cellular service in those geographic areas. The Gulf of Mexico, and most certainly the area proposed to be the Coastal Zone in the Second FNPRM's proposed rules, is covered by Bachow/Coastel's service contours. Bachow/Coastel also cited serious legal issues raised by the Second FNPRM's proposed rules, which do not address the mandate of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit's ("D.C. Circuit") decision in *Petroleum Communications, Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission*, 22 F.3d 1164 (D.C. Cir. 1994) ("*Petroleum*"), namely: that limiting Gulf licensees to areas of actual reliable service was arbitrary and capricious; to not apply the same licensing standards to both Gulf-based licensees and land-based licensees without explaining why the Commission would suddenly deviate from its longstanding policy of treating Gulf carriers differently than land-based carriers; and take into consideration the unique nature of operations for Gulf-based licensees. The adoption of the rules proposed in the Second FNPRM raises serious legal questions; indeed, a continuation of this rulemaking proceeding will likely lead to litigation.

Bachow/Coastel noted that the current Commission rules are effectively dealing with carrier problems in the Gulf of Mexico, and are spurring the expansion of coverage throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Bachow/Coastel also recounted how the presence of the Second FNPRM stymied negotiations with land-based licensees for extension agreements and settlement agreements. Finally, Bachow/Coastel raised the possibility of the Commission conducting its own fact-finding study to determine whether there are service reliability issues along the Gulf Coast, and the possibility that the Commission might form two industry working groups to provide recommendations to the Commission (one group would include licensees with Florida coast license areas, and the other group would deal with the remaining Gulf coastal areas).

If you have any questions concerning this filing, or if you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

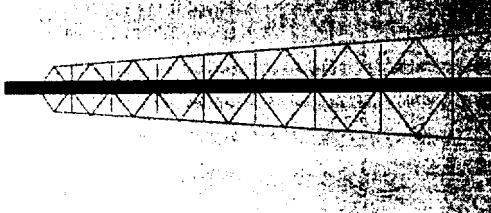
Cordially,



Steven J. Hamrick

Counsel to Bachow/Coastel, L.L.C.

Attach.



Review of the History of Proposed Rulemakings

• Timetable

Unserviced Area Rulemaking for the

Gulf of Mexico

January 1993

Third Circuit Court of Appeals³⁴

Decision

May 1994

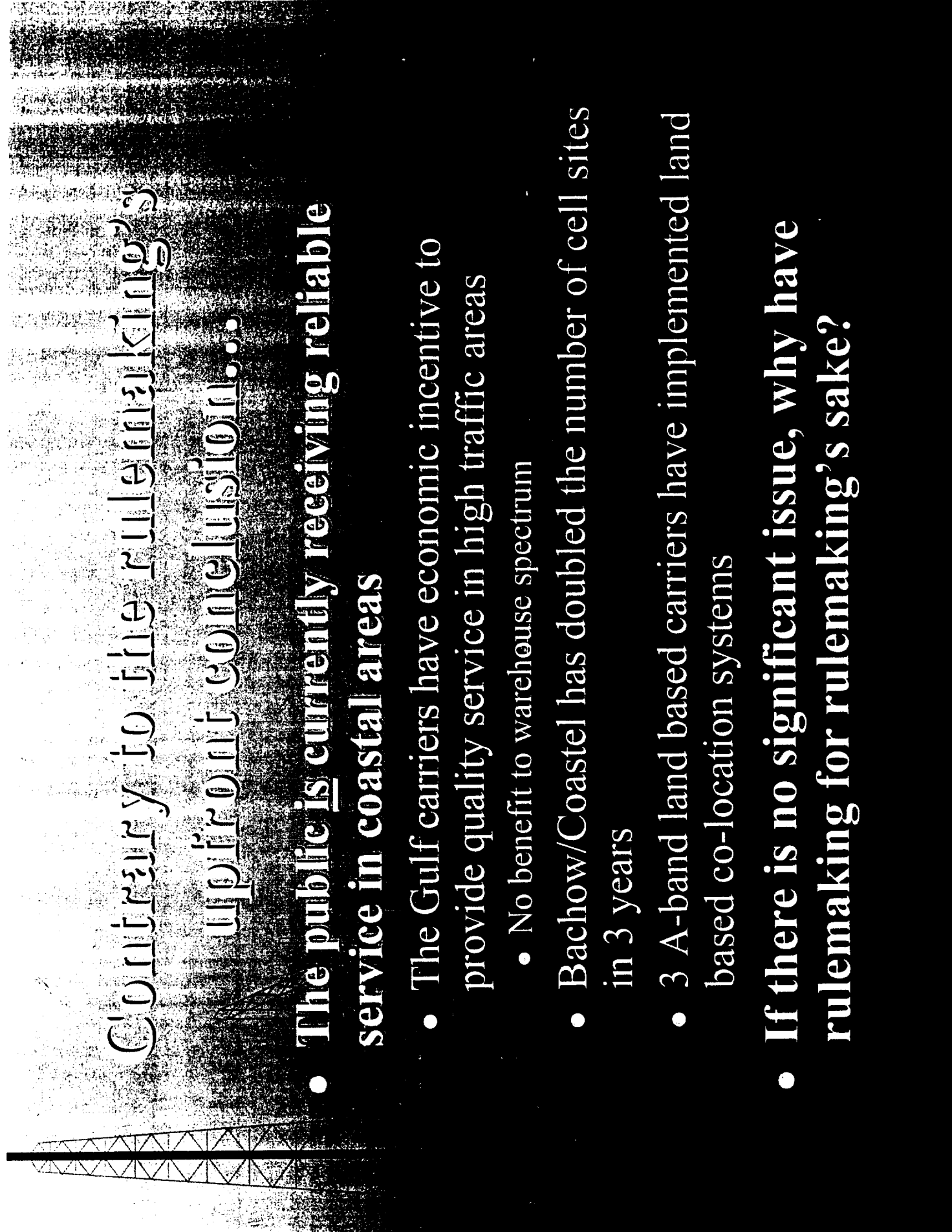
Further Proposed Rulemaking

March 1997

Further Proposed Rulemaking

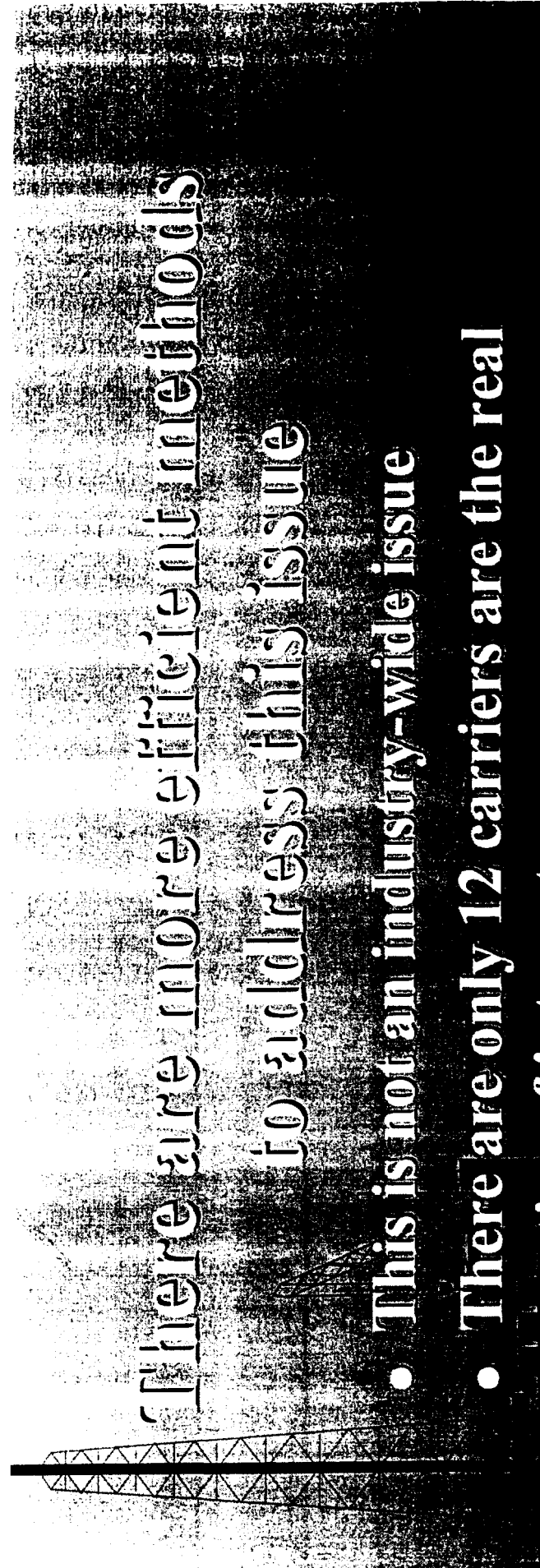
April 2000

- The underlying premise for the proposed rulemaking has resolved itself over the past 7 years.



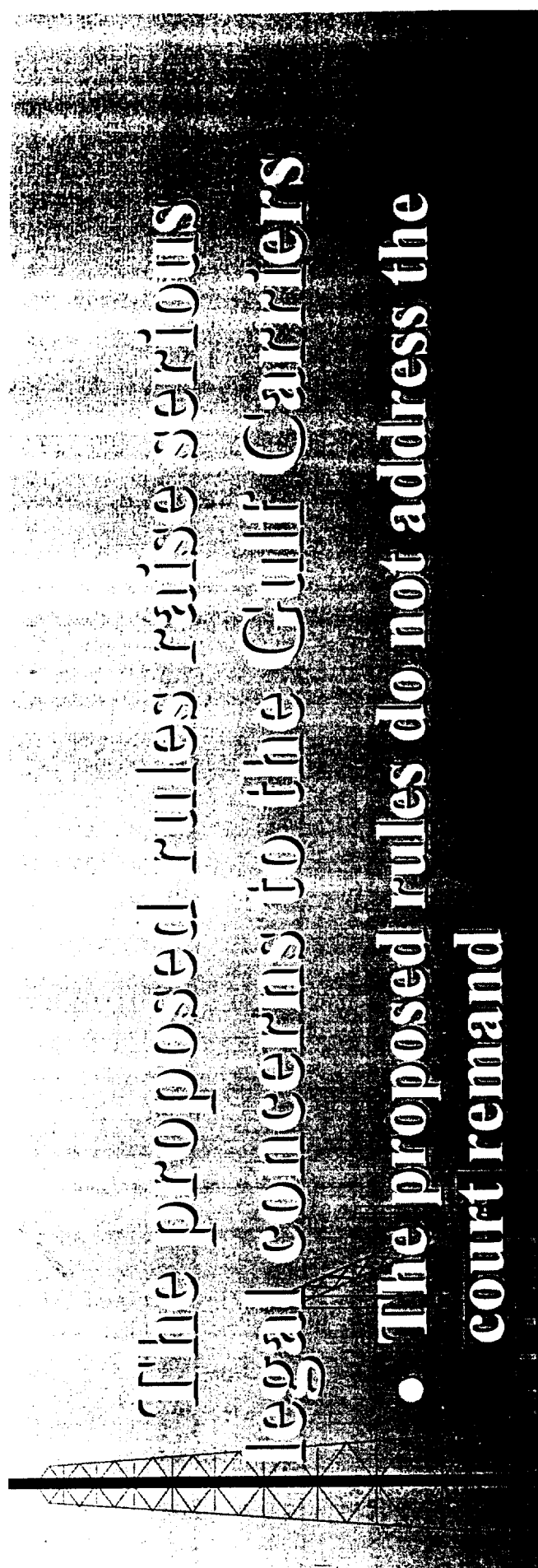
Contrary to the rulemaking's upfront conclusion...

- **The public is currently receiving reliable service in coastal areas**
 - The Gulf carriers have economic incentive to provide quality service in high traffic areas
 - No benefit to warehouse spectrum
 - Bachow/Coastel has doubled the number of cell sites in 3 years
 - 3 A-band land based carriers have implemented land based co-location systems
- **If there is no significant issue, why have rulemaking for rulemaking's sake?**

The background of the slide features a high-contrast, black and white image of an oil rig or offshore platform, partially obscured by the text.

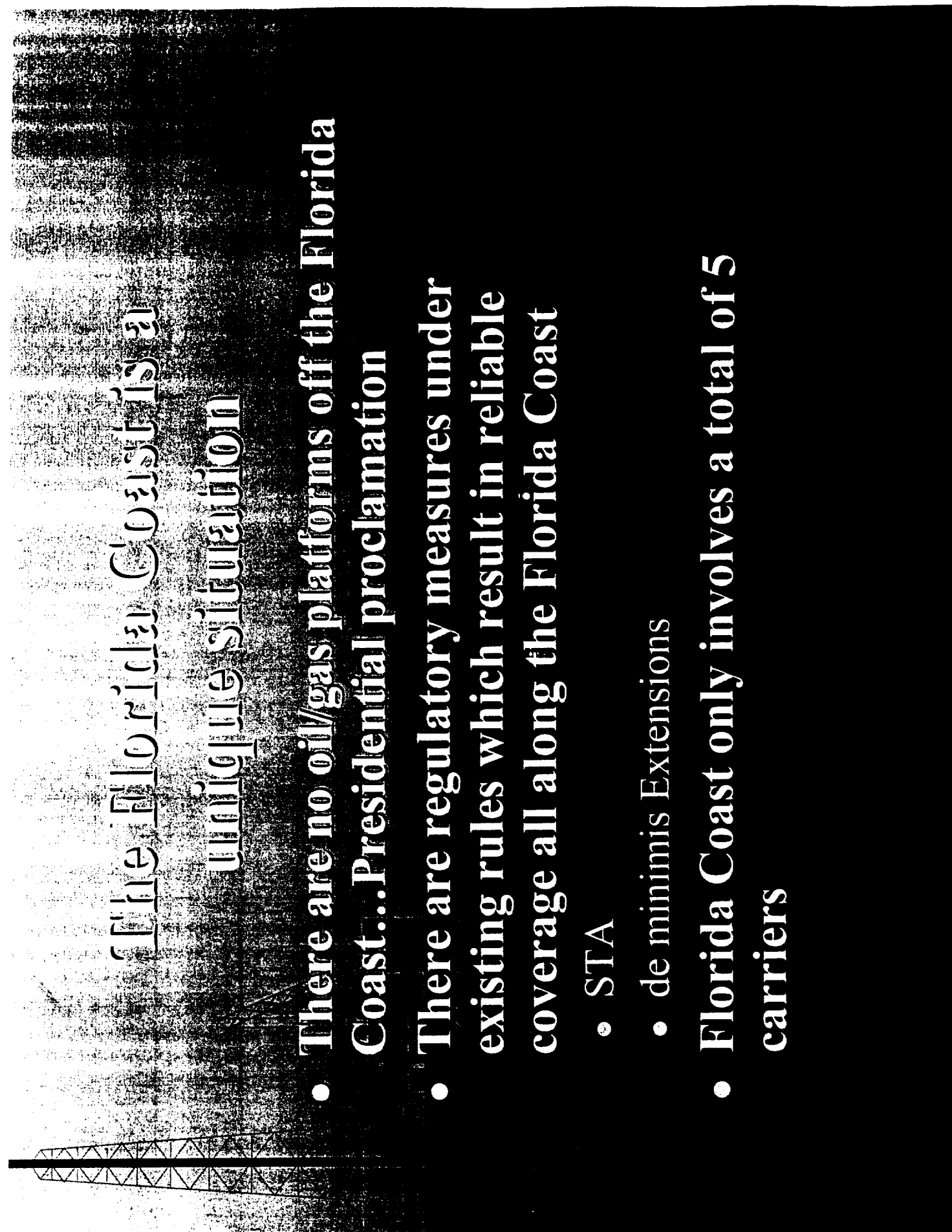
There are more efficient methods to address this issue

- This is not an industry-wide issue
- There are only 12 carriers are the real parties of interest
- The Bureau has not attempted to negotiate or mediate a compromise in 7 years
- The current rules provide opportunities to address temporary service deficiencies
 - STA (Special Temporary Authorizations)
 - IOA (Interim Operating Authority)

The background of the slide features a high-contrast, black and white image of an offshore oil platform or rig, with its complex lattice structure visible against a dark sky.

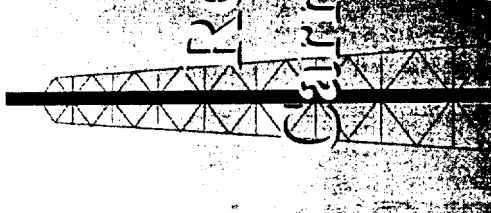
The proposed rules raise serious legal concerns to the Gulf Carriers

- The proposed rules do not address the court remand
- The proposed rules improperly modify the Gulf carriers' licensed territory
- An extended rulemaking process will likely result in the same parties seeking court intervention and is a waste of resources



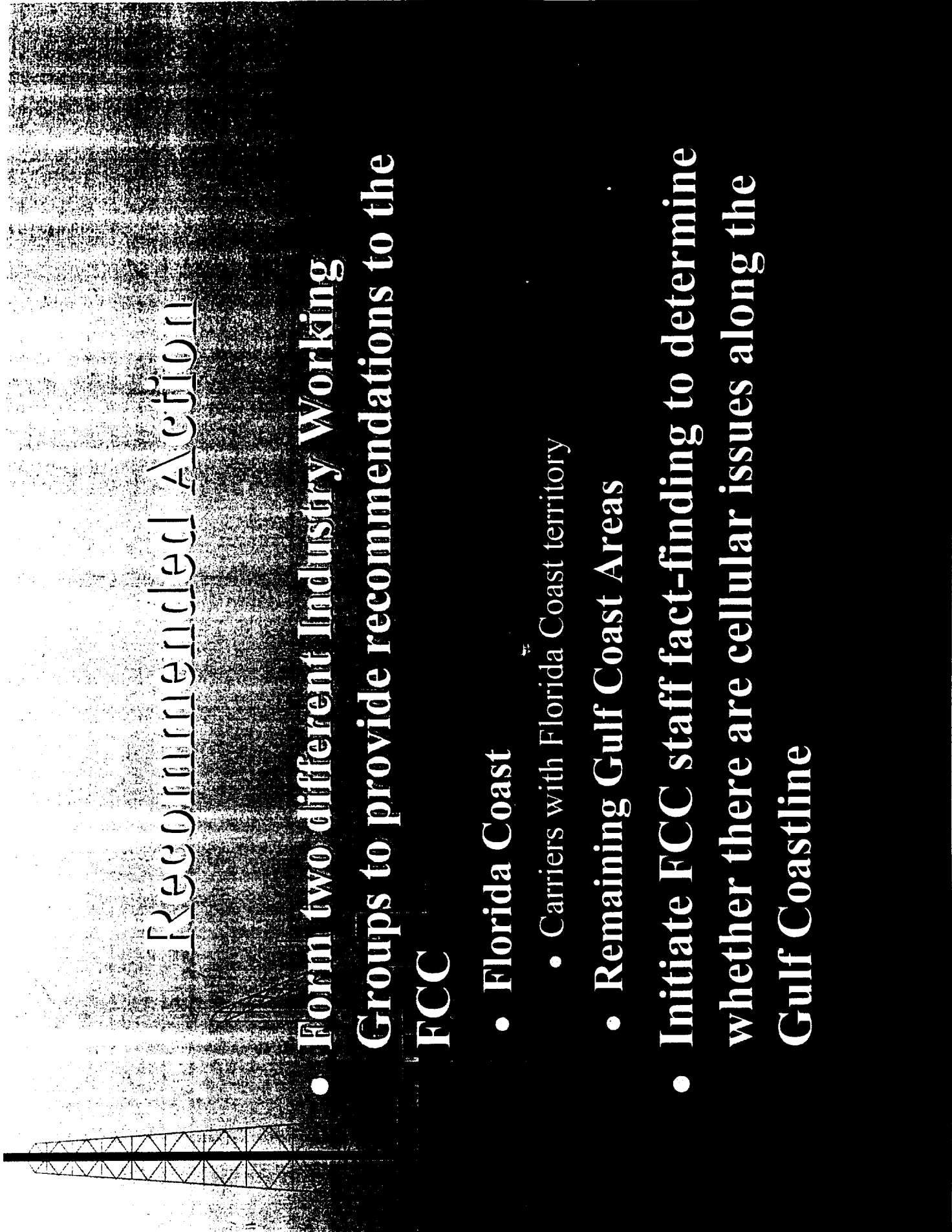
The Florida Coast is a unique situation

- There are no oil/gas platforms off the Florida Coast... Presidential proclamation
- There are regulatory measures under existing rules which result in reliable coverage all along the Florida Coast
 - STA
 - de minimis Extensions
- Florida Coast only involves a total of 5 carriers



Remand required rulemaking to address Gulf Carriers' issues, but proposed rulemaking does not

- **Gulf Carriers must continuously deal with interference from land carriers**
 - Our experiences with GTE over interference complaints has been time consuming, expensive and exposed us to delaying and bullying tactics.
- **Effectively, if a Gulf Carrier loses a platform (or a lease) it automatically is stripped of coverage area**



Recommended Action

- **Form two different Industry Working Groups to provide recommendations to the FCC**

- **Florida Coast**
 - Carriers with Florida Coast territory
- **Remaining Gulf Coast Areas**
- **Initiate FCC staff fact-finding to determine whether there are cellular issues along the Gulf Coastline**